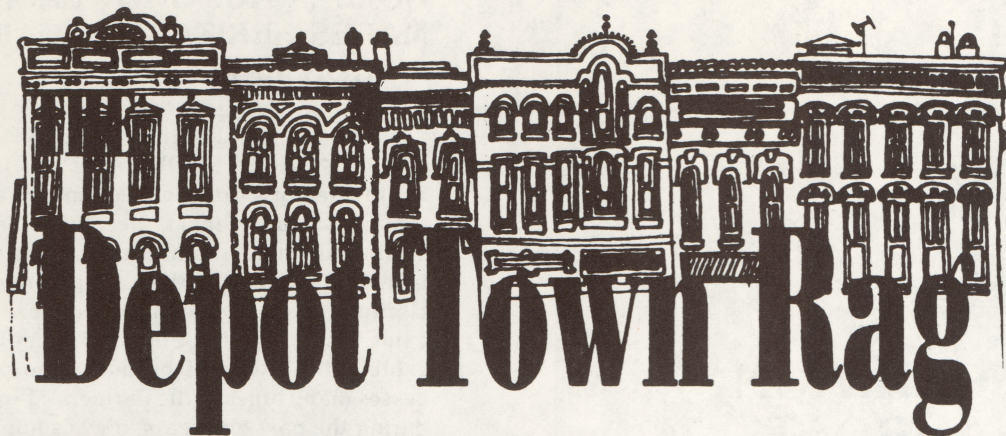




APRIL MEETINGS IN THE CABOOSE
Development Auth 5:30 P.M. Mon. 1st
Association 7:30 P.M. Thurs. 18th
Foundation 8:00 P.M. Thurs. 25th

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

A TOWN BY ANY OTHER NAME — IN 1975

"After decades of decay" many of the returning middle class didn't know what to call this place. Most of Ypsilanti saw it as SKID ROW, but Chicago's burgeoning OLD TOWN gave us hope and confidence. Old timers argued that it was once called CORK TOWN or GERMAN TOWN, but nobody believed them. GODFROY'S TRADING POST and WOODRUFF'S GROVE were not exactly accurate, either. Nineteenth Century directories listed Cross and River Street businesses as AT THE DEPOT, but they didn't call it Depot Town. The trains were still running and the MCRR depot hadn't fallen down yet, so the old neighborhood just kept its most obvious moniker: DEPOT TOWN.

THEY COULD HAVE CALLED IT "FRENCH TOWN": Aubrey and Nancy French owned the Alibi Bar. Folks called him the "Silver Fox" and he was a colorful and demanding bartender. He was often accompanied by a baseball bat and could leap the bar in a single bound to maintain proper decorum in his establishment. When "Aub" retired and sons Jerry and Bill took over the business, they commemorated Mom and Dad in their first remodeling effort: look for the "Aub-Nan" keystone in the arch which now connects the bar with the former dining room. Younger sons helped their big brothers while baby sister Linda opened an antique shop down the street with Steve Gross. They later moved the DEPOT EXCHANGE to its present location where they eventually helped to convert the old Central Bar next door into today's SIDETRACK. They then helped to develop more parking in the coal yard out in back.

AND THEY COULD HAVE CALLED IT "GREEK TOWN" after the Kornilakis family bought the long-empty Turner's Restaurant. Soon after they breathed life into the OLD TOWN, they knocked out the east wall and expanded into the old variety store space, and most recently moving west into what was Sinkule's Market. They eventually moved the family into the huge upstairs living quarters and have acquired their furthest western boundary, the building which houses Linda William's VINTAGE PASSION.

OR THEY COULD HAVE CALLED IT "HERITAGE SQUARE": Rosemary Lawson started with a gift shop in the MILLWORKS BUILDING called ROSEMARY'S CORNER. After she moved her operation to the B & D - Towler & Notar location, she and husband Norm purchased the entire block which they call "Heritage Square" and now encompasses GRAND TRUNK, LTD., GOLDEN AGE SHOWCASE, THE CANDY SHOP, HERITAGE REAL ESTATE, and T.H.E. STORE, a supplier of therapeutic equipment for the health profession. They even provided a home base for Greenfield Construction during the recent bridge building epic.

IN ANOTHER TEN YEARS...who knows what we'll be? Although we are discovered at different times by different people, most discoverers agree on DEPOT TOWN as the name for this place. Some might even say that we've come so far from the SKID ROW image that we could change our name to SKID DRIVE. But, if the past decade is any indication, we won't get to 1995 by accident.

THREE SPECIAL OFFERS THIS ISSUE!

● ANNIVERSARY DINNER ● TRAIN TRIP ● STRAMBOAT TRIP ● Make your reservations early!

A LITTLE STREET WHERE OLD FRIENDS MEET

(By Gus Kahn and Harry Woods, 1932)

It's just a little street where old friends meet,
I'd love to wander back some day.
To you it may seem old and sort o' tumble down,
But it seems a lot to folks in my home town.
Although I'm rich or poor I still feel sure
I'm welcome as the flow'rs in May;
It's just a little street where old friends meet
And treat you in the same old way.

SENATOR POLLACK IS DTA'S ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER APRIL 21st

Aubree's Second Floor
39 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan

6:00 Cash Bar

7:00 Dinner

7:30 PARADE OF

PONTIFICATING PRESIDENTS

Jerry French, our founder 1974-1975

Beverly Shankwiler 1975-1976

Tom Dodd 1976-1980

Carolyn McKeever 1980-1983

Rex Richie 1983-1984

Gary McKeever, moderator 1984-1985

"A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet"

Barton Polot, piano
from Ann Arbor's Gandy Dancer

Ward Five Councilmembers,

Jerry Bubenhofer and Greg Dodd

Mayor of the City of Ypsilanti,

Peter Murdock, introducing:

STATE SENATOR LANA POLLACK

Comments from the Audience

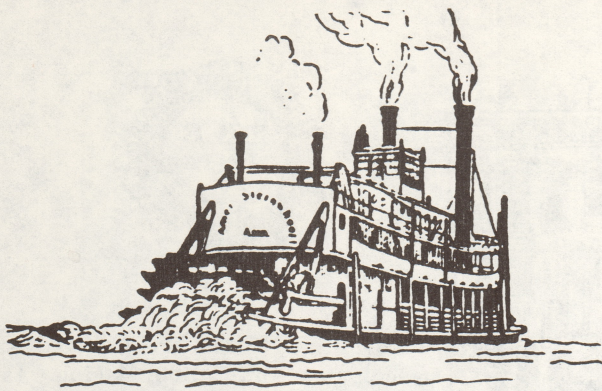
"A Depot Town Rag"

Barton Polot et al.

Please reserve _____ places at \$15.00 each.

Send to: Depot Town Association, Inc.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197



DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION STERNWHEEL STEAMBOAT MOONLIGHT CRUISE (and Hot Dog Roast) On Ohio's Beautiful Maumee River SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1985

Ride the SHAWNEE PRINCESS as it plies the placid waters of the historic Maumee River, affording her passengers a glimpse of the river as it looked when Mad Anthony Wayne roamed the area. The SHAWNEE PRINCESS is docked near the intersection of US-23 and the Maumee River and is available for private charter to the Depot Town Association on Sunday, May 26, 1985 to support the Depot Town Rag.

This sternwheeler, patterned after the Western Rivers steamboats which played a major part in opening the American West, is 60 feet from bow to stern, with a beam of 11 feet and a draft of less than 2 feet. She is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry 42 passengers.

Passengers of all ages are encouraged to take a turn at the magnificent 4-foot brass wheel. Those of a mechanical turn of mind will delight in her authentic hand-crafted steam engines and all will be charmed by her antique brass gauges and other equipment. Remember to bring your camera so you can take pictures of your family piloting the steamboat.

The SHAWNEE PRINCESS is berthed in a portion of the old Miami and Erie Canal in Providence Park, a Toledo Metropark opposite Grand Rapids, Ohio. The functioning 1836 water-powered Ludwig Mill is a short stroll down the canal towpath from the steamboat landing.

4:00 P.M.: Charter bus leaves DTA Caboose

-Grand Rapids, Ohio

-Shawnee Princess departs dock

-One-hour cruise upstream

-Hot Dog Roast at Woodyard's Landing

-One-hour moonlight cruise downstream

-Bus leaves Grand Rapids

9:30 P.M. arrive DTA Caboose

RESERVATIONS: at \$25.00 ea.

Total:\$

To: Depot Town Association, Inc.
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

GOLDEN AGE SHOWCASE MAKES HERITAGE SQUARE A TRUE MALL

With the mid-March addition of GOLDEN AGE SHOWCASE, a top-quality senior citizen collection of hand crafted wood, crochet, needle art and crafts and other hand-made gift items, the labarinth of fascinating shops in the Heritage Square Building complex became a small mall. Shirley Bolling has exhibited the group's products and processes many times at the Farmers' Market during the past two years, always hoping to find a permanent street-side location in today's bustling Depot Town. When she met with Rosemary Lawson and Sue Shaw they saw her operation as a most appropriate compliment to GRAND TRUNK, LTD. and the CANDY SHOP already in progress. All three enterprises are now connected and interrelated through the giant shop's interesting and surprising interior arrangements. Watch for a new signage plan to explain this complex to the first-time shoppers who are not used to such merchandising creativity. Welcome to the block, old-timers. We look forward to a long and happy relationship.

GOLDEN AGE SHOWCASE

15 E. Cross

Handmade Gifts Created by Seniors

The new/old shelves at NOW AND THEN ANTIQUES get all those tiny pieces of glassware, tinware, toys and such up on the wall and at an easy-to-see eye level. What were simply weathered barn boards only a month ago are now very practical display units in a shop that is always fun to dig into. Now the digging is even easier.



BIG BOB'S
MAGAZINE AND
FANTASY EMPORIUM

50 East Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(313) 485-4930

- Comics (old and new)
- Magazines
- Paperbacks
- Celebrity Posters & Buttons
- Candy, Pop, & Cigarettes
- Gaming Supplies (D & D)

Hours: Mon-Thurs 12-6 pm, Fri. 12-7 pm, Sat. 10-6 pm
Closed Sun.



482-0489 23 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Now and Then
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Buy — Sell — Trade

IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES

34 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Rrefinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES will soon call as much attention to their south (rear) entrance as their usual northern exposure. Since so many people find Depot Town via the River Street access, the whole rear facade of their building is a most important signal that you've found Depot Town. Their new plan includes awnings, wall repair, new double-hung windows, an entrance equal to the Cross Street entrance, landscaping and a wall-mounted sign. The design was conceived by Richard Macias, writer and designer of the 1976 Depot Town Study.

The Hansens have received HDC approval of their plan to hang an awning over the former Eagles' space which will match the one already above STAND-ARD PRINTING. A beautiful new recessed center door with sidelights and transom will accent the coined columns of their recently purchased building.



Sat. April 13th 10 A.M.

Square Dance Demonstration join Jack and Dottie King and the Merry Squares

Sun. April 14th

Antique Auction

Sat., April 20th, 10 A.M.

Home Herb Gardening Demonstration

Sun., April 21st, 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.

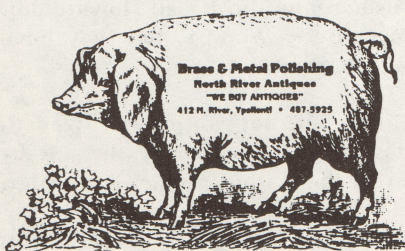
Spring Art Extraordinaire
15th District Democratic Party

Sat., April 27th

Market Psychic Fair, Explore palm readings, ESP, reincarnation

Sun. April 28th - 1 P.M.

Whistlestop Folk Concert



a non-profit business serving depot town



open: Sun. 12 - 4 Mon. - Fri. 10 - 7 Sat. 9 - 6

and everything nice

Clothing Gifts Toys Books

THE KIDS' SHOP IN DEPOT TOWN
27 East Cross
483-6925

Jim MacDonald's
Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing

29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

RIVER ARTWORKS
**CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785**
• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS
NEEDLECRAFT
FRAMING OF OBJECTS
ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

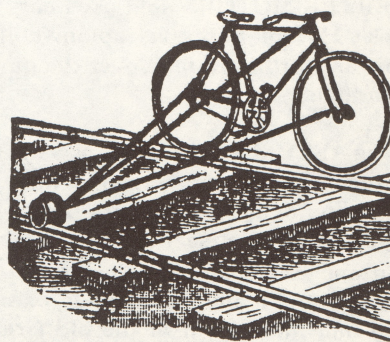
THE GRAND TRUNK LTD.
CARDS, GIFTS & STITCHERY
MON - SAT 10 - 5
15 E. CROSS STREET

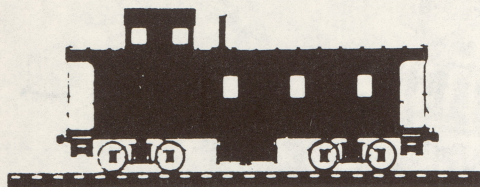
Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different
COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it
to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM

"To your good health"
FOR YOUR
NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

PLEASE!
NO BIKE RIDING
ON THE
SIDEWALKS!





DTA 21 MARCH 1985

President McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. in the caboose. Introductions were made. Paul Feters sat in for the absent secretary. The previous minutes were read with the correction that the Tiger Ball Game trip is not a fund raiser for the DDA. It's just for fun.

TREASURY: \$8,657.65 Total, \$6,555.82 Jazz, \$285.98 Rag, \$638.33 Special Events and Projects, \$1,177.52 General Account. DTA profited \$1400 from the last Jazz event.

BILLBOARD: Current account holds \$470 with \$1570 due. Billboard supporters include Depot Exchange, T. Dodd, North River Antiques, Aubree's Pronto, J. MacDonald, THE Company. Where are the rest?

WASHTENAW COUNTY FOR THE ARTS: Executive Director Helga Haller reported that the Council represents 56 member groups, including DTA, the Ypsilanti Area Dancers and the Ypsilanti Players. The Council will help run the stage for Heritage Festival. Haller also explained the extensive programs of the Council.

MASTER MARKETING PLAN: Sue Dickenson, an employee of the City administration, was invited by Pres. McKeever to explain ideas on marketing. She is also a member of DTA and will work as a volunteer in the block.

CABOOSE REHABILITATION: could cost as much as \$2500. It was agreed to establish a budget in that amount to rebuild the caboose and that people who want to serve on such a committee should come forward. The \$500 already allocated will be replenished.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL: The Toy and Train Show will be free to the public. We are still looking for someone to chair the Quilt Show. Jerry Meadows needs your help!

JAZZ: We made \$4000 on the three concerts, to be split with WEMU. Carolyn said, "Everything went so slick that it looked easy." We still need more Depot Town helpers, however. Next week will see the final wrap-up for this season and planning for the June Frog Island Festival.

EASTER BUNNIES: Saturday, April 6 at 9:30 A.M. in Riverside Park. Much help is needed. Rick Slate will get 50 dozen rotten eggs for the DTA Egg Toss.

STEAMBOAT MOONLIGHT CRUISE: Sunday, May 26 at \$25 each for 42 places. \$100 deposit for charter bus was approved.

RAILROAD DAYS SPECIAL: needs \$1200 deposit for busses and train reservations. President McKeever was empowered to make financial decisions regarding the train trip on Sunday, May 5th. Watch The Rag for details. Both the above events are sold in advance on a first-come basis and must sell out early. Eric Ward will create accounts for each.

BEST YET AWARD to Bill French and the Merchants' Committee for their work on the Billboard.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD to those merchants who have not yet paid their share for that same billboard.

ADJOURNED at 9:30 P.M.

D.T.A.'S TEN YEARS IN DEPOT TOWN:

(Cooperation for the Enjoyment of Life in Historic Ypsilanti)

WITH OUR NEIGHBORS:

Stream Train Excursions
Boomer Days
Victorian Holidays
The Depot Town Rag
Health Insurance Plans
The Caboose

WITH WEMU:

Winter Jazz Series
Heritage Jazz Competition
Frog Island Jazz Festival

WITH THE VISITORS

AND CONVENTION BUREAU:

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival
(Free Antique, Quilt, Auto, Train & Toy, Jazz Shows)

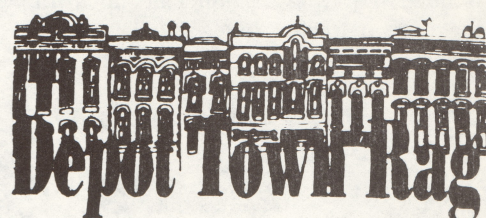
The Great Train Race
The Beer Tent

WITH THE HISTORIC DISTRICT:

Historic Preservation
Tax Incentives

A Humane Urban Environment WITH THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

New streets, sidewalks, lighting
The new Cross Street Bridge
Farmers; Market/Freight House
Park rehabilitations
Loan and Grant Programs



A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Gary McKeever, president
(DTA: The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Annual dues:

Associate member.....\$ 10
Regular member\$ 25
Sustaining member.....\$100

WCA Washtenaw Council for the Arts



BETTER BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS TO INCREASE SALES

The following piece was generated at an informal Sunday afternoon meeting at Aubree's Second Floor and returned the following Sunday. If you didn't get one - or didn't return it - or both - please take the time to respond and return this one to Bill or Sandee French at Aubree's this week.)

HOURS OPEN? _____

HOURS THAT YOU WILL NOT OPEN UNDER ANY CONDITIONS _____

LIST YOUR THREE BEST BUSINESS DAYS AND HOURS _____

LIST YOUR WORST BUSINESS DAY _____

WHICH WEEK OF THE MONTH IS YOUR BUSIEST? _____

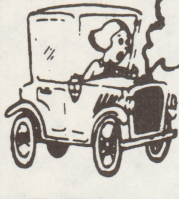
WHICH WEEK OF THE MONTH IS YOUR SLOWEST? _____

SPECIALS OR CHANGES IN YOUR BUSINESS THAT YOU MIGHT MAKE IN THE NEXT 90 DAYS? _____

IDEAS, NO MATTER HOW CRAZY, FOR COOPERATIVE ADVERTISING _____

Sign your business name if you wish, and return to Aubree's this week. Thanks.

TEN YEARS AGO: DOWN IN DEPOT TOWN



**CITY
RADIATOR**

110 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

483-2248

CITY RADIATOR was in the building closest to the bridge where Heritage Real Estate is today.

STANDARD PRINTING was owned by the senior Hansens who were starting to dream of their retirement.

PRINTING

Hansen's
STANDARD PRINTING
35 E. Cross
483-0339
Historic Depot Town

PRINTING

HON'S FLOWERS was in Campus Town and COOPER TV was where Hon's is now. Later, Val Cooper occupied the Ice Cream Parlor space, now is in the Milworks Building on River Street.



Hon's
Flowers & Fancies

46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

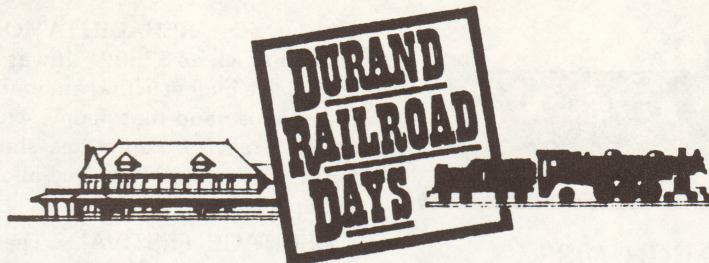
WEBER DRUG had long since sold its soda fountain, but you could still get a prescription filled. It's been a bakery and three different pizza parlors since. PRONTO PIZZA now occupies that space.

PRONTO
PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI

483-4555

SUN-THU 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2

Free Delivery
on orders over \$4.00



RAILROAD DAYS SPECIAL SUNDAY, MAY 5th

Presented by the MAD RIVER & NICKLE PLATE ROAD RAILROAD SOCIETY and the BLUEWATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER of the NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY with the cooperation of the GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD and the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

For the third year in a row, we announce a spring railfan tour - on antique coaches traveling through the spring countryside - for the benefit of our favorite publication: The Depot Town Rag.

The one-day railroad spectacular takes place from the Grand Trunk Western's former Detroit & Toledo Shoreline Lang Yard in Toledo to Durand, Michigan's 10th annual "RAILROAD DAYS FESTIVAL" on Sunday, May 5th. Powered by Grand Trunk Western diesel-electric locomotives, the RAILROAD DAYS SPECIAL will ply former D & TSL trackage, pass through Detroit's famed Milwaukee Junction and travel the busy Holly subdivision to Durand.

The RAILROAD DAYS SPECIAL will include a private coach for Depot Towners, many more coaches, two dining cars, and two snack-souvenir cars. Smoking is limited to restroom lounges and vestibules. Bring your camera!

The RAILROAD DAYS FESTIVAL features old fashioned small town hospitality commemorating Durand's 100-plus years prominence as Michigan's busiest rail center. Events include the Lions Club Carnival, Grand Trunk Western's 4-6-2 Pacific type steam locomotive Number 5632 open for display in Iron Horse Park, the Durand Railroad History Museum, and the opportunity to visit the City of Durand's famous Grand Trunk Union Depot, now designated as a National Historic Landmark. There also will be an operating model railroad, flea market, craft sales and antique show.

Northbound

7:30 A.M.

8.30 A.M.

10.00 A.M.

11:15 A.M.

Charter Bus

DEPOT TOWN

Railroad Days Special

WYANDOTTE

BIRMINGHAM

DURAND

Southbound

7:45 P.M.

6:45 P.M.

5:15 P.M.

4:00 P.M.

RESERVATIONS on a first-come basis:

_____ Adults at \$45.00 ea.

_____ Children at \$35.00 ea.

TOTAL: \$ _____

To the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.
THE CABOOSE, 400 MARKET PLACE
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

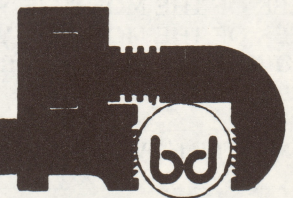
Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC



307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan
Phone 483-1238

TED'S AUTO ELECTRIC was counting the days to the final pay-off of the mortgage and Ted Mull was the first Depot Towner in years to serve on the City's Zoning Board of Appeals.

B & D PLUMBING was on Cross Street, later moved to River Street. Towler & Notar were their next-door neighbors.



**B & D RETAIL PLUMBING
and HEATING, INC.**

Richard C. Luffin
310 N. River - 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

AUBREE'S SALOON was the Alibi Bar. Jerry and Bill ran the bar and Sandee was home taking care of the babies. The DTA was conceived on the several stools at the south end of the bar. They still rented rooms upstairs in the "railroad hotel."



DEPOT EXCHANGE was on the other side of the street where Steve and Linda were already convincing antique hunters to look for old treasures in Depot Town.

Stop By!

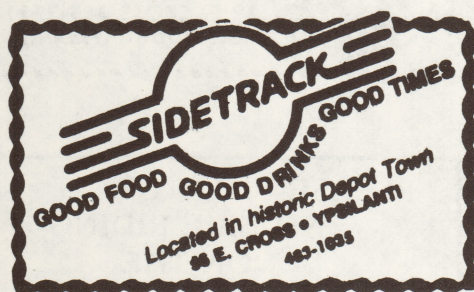
Ypsilanti's Farmers Market

in historic Depot Town

Weds & Sat 8 - 2

- Quality Market Goods
- Craft Shows
- Traskside Coffee Shop
- Monthly Freight House Events
- Exhibits

THE SIDETRACK was then called the Central Bar, named for the Michigan Central Railroad, and was a true rail-town bar – open at 7:00 in the morning. It's pool table was one of the most active in the county.



MILLER MOTORS sold used cars and Jack's Hudson-Essex-Terraplane collection was starting to take over the garage even then.

The ARTRAIN BUILDING was the first of the "new owner" retrofits and was appearing in all the "slickers" and newspaper magazine sections of the day. Don and Bev Shankwiler could tell you exactly how many truck loads of trash they had hauled out of the old Green's Cleaners each week.

Page 6 DTR, April 1985



MILLER'S ICE CREAM PARLOR was on Michigan Avenue until it was closed and demolished. Sally and Rex Richie reactivated it here several years later. Somehow, the new place looks older than the old place. How can that be?

Miller's

ICE CREAM

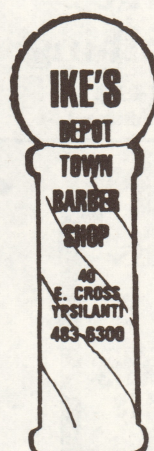
42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan 485-7546

"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons

Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes

IKE'S BARBERSHOP had only one barber, but boasted three porcelain and leather adjustable chairs. They looked like six chairs in the diagonal mirrors – even more if you watched the beveled edges.



OLD TOWN RESTAURANT had been recently purchased and operated in what is now their center section. Turner's restaurant had closed and the equipment stood unused for about a year until John and Shirley Kornilakis saved it and turned it into a viable business once more.

CITY BODY SHOP was in full, top quality operation, sold Pure gasoline at the filling station and ran a popular beer take-out next door. Distributors have told us that they sold more beer from their tiny store than any retailer in town at that time.

THE FOLLET HOUSE turned the old NBY birthplace into the Rainbow Silk Screen Shop. It's now the location of the DELI SHOPPE. The top floors which hold all those classy apartments were used by Mayflower Storage.

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar

THE DELI SHOPPE

Delicatessen and Catering
in Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Reception

THE FARMER'S MARKET was still operating out of car trunks in downtown's Smith Furniture parking lot and what is called the Market Plaza, today, was a sea of mud holes, ash piles, abandoned autos, rats, coal, cinders and a few fallen-down frame or block garages.

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES

34 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Refinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

THE M.C.R.R. DEPOT didn't look much different than today. It's still abandoned. At least the trains stopped there then.



Also still on the street: Howard Jones, Heavy, Betty Wood – and they haven't changed a bit.

Gone but not forgotten: Bradstreet Glass, Lawson Upholstery, the storefront church, the Karate Studio, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Huron Valley Advertising, Huron Valley TV, ABC Tile, Emma Hall, Jitterbug and "Cowboy" Gene.